IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Masahiko TANAKA et al.

Application No.: 09/862,458

Filed: May 23, 2001

For: THIN-FILM DISPOSITION APPARATUS)

Group Art Unit: 1734

Examiner: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a prior art search has been made.

In addition, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that each of the references submitted herewith is in fact prior art with respect to the present application, or that each of the references is considered to be material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b).

The documents are being submitted within 3 months of the filing and before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later, therefore no fee or certification is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

TC 1700

Date: August 23, 2001

William C. Rowland

Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404 (703) 836-6620

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

AUG 27 2001

TC 1700 For: THIN-FILM DISPOSITION APPARATUS **Assistant Commissioner for Patents** Washington, D.C. 20231 Sir: Enclosed is an Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying form PTO-1449 for the above-identified patent application. [X]No additional fee for submission of an IDS is required. The fee of \$240.00 (126) as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is also enclosed. [] A certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is also enclosed. [] [] A certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), a petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement, and the petition fee of \$130.00 (122) as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) are also enclosed. [] Charge \$_____ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800 for the fee due. A check in the amount of \$ is enclosed for the fee due. [] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate. Respectfully submitted, BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

William C. Rowland

Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404 (703) 836-6620

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